

Spring  
Edition

## Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association

May  
2018

### In This Edition



Page 1  
Message from  
the President

Page 2  
Appalachian  
Festival

Page 3-4  
More Favorite  
Festivals

Page 5  
SamJam and  
Tri-State  
Festivals

Page 6  
New Gene  
Thompson Jam

Pages 7-9  
Jam Etiquette  
and Jams

Page 10  
Sponsor Ads

Page 11  
Member Info

*Keeping Bluegrass Music Alive in the Northern Kentucky Area*

## *Happy Spring and Festival Season*

At least I THINK it's supposed to be Spring! Wow....what weather we have had lately! Spring flowers and snow! But lots of new albums are being released, touring schedules are out, and soon the sounds of bluegrass and acoustic music will be filling the air, all signs that the 2018 Bluegrass Festival season is about to begin.

As we recover from the winter doldrums, hitting the festival circuit is always a fun way to experience high quality entertainment at a reasonable price! Festivals offer great opportunities for experiencing live musical performances by some of the genre's best as well as some of the exciting new, rising artists and locally popular favorite bands. Enjoy meeting your favorite band or artist up close and personal. And plenty of parking lot picking sessions are always part of the scene along with vendor booths, workshops and good summertime food.

There are many festivals that we've enjoyed over the years and we don't intend to slight any of them. On the following pages we have highlighted details of some of our favorites and listed many of them happening around the country this season.

Making vacation plans and wondering about music festivals near your destination or just want to plan on making the festival circuit and don't

see anything listed on the following pages for the area you are traveling in or through? A more comprehensive national listing by State, Region, and Date can be found at:

<http://www.bluegrassfestivalguide.com>

### **Be A Contributor**

If you are headed to a festival or show we'd like to have you send us a short article about your experience with details and a photograph or two. Part of our mission is to support bluegrass and traditional music and any contributions or comments from our members are greatly appreciated. Become a contributor to The Northern Grass newsletter and share your experiences by sending your articles and photos to [jerry@nkbma.com](mailto:jerry@nkbma.com)

### **Survey Update**

In the last newsletter we asked everyone to complete a short survey to let us know how NKBMA can better serve our membership and potential members. If you haven't already, please take a few minutes of your time and complete the survey by copying the following link into your browser:

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/9ZT2ZY3](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9ZT2ZY3)

Your opinions are important to us and can make a HUGE impact on our success! Thanks and happy festival season! - Pam

*Is America a country whose citizens will cross the ocean to fight for democracy but won't cross the street to vote? Please vote whenever you can. Your vote is important!*



Spring  
Edition



May  
2018



## The 49<sup>th</sup> Appalachian Festival

*“The Family Event”- Ron Simmons, pres., ACDA*

When I first became involved with the Appalachian Community Development Association, I was just looking for a gig. I reached out to the Executive Director and Treasurer of the organization, which has a festival every Mother’s Day weekend at Coney Island. Her name is Sandra Moss and I have yet to find anyone else in “Festivalia” that works as hard or is more dedicated to a 501c3. The board, like the NKBMA, is not paid or thanked very often for the effort. It is a labor of love that needs volunteers!

The ACDA as we call it, has the festival each year to gather funds for other non-profit groups that provide food sustenance or educational opportunities to children and folks of Appalachian descent. I got the gig and subsequently joined the organization because I became aware of the good this small group of volunteers does each year. I am now the President of the Board. That is simply a volunteer with authority to call the meetings to order.

I have found over the years that the Appalachian Mountains, while beautiful, have produced something much more important than a good vacation spot or place to return to visit family. Those mountains have produced people who have become the finest ambassadors of human values, (in my not as humble as it used to be) opinion, as I have ever encountered. Those values are **Common Sense**



**and Morality.** The people of Appalachia seem to have these values and I laud them for it. Can you imagine if we could send some of those values to Washington DC?

So much for my ‘sermon from the mount’ (my chair facing the computer!). Please come out Mother’s Day Weekend and enjoy the music, dancing, history, crafts, food, storytelling and educational demonstrations of the Appalachian way of life.

Some of the headline bands this year are the Kevin Prater Band, Katie Penn Williams and Newtown, Blackwater, Nightflyer, Murphy’s Law, The Wayfarers, Vernon McIntyre and Appalachian Grass, Artie Werner and “The Grass is Always Blue” Saturday Jam (see below), The WOBO Classic Country and Rock ‘n’ Roll Road Show, plus many others making good music. Learn to dance, tap your foot, or rest a bit at the Storytelling Stage. Enjoy the good food and good family fun May 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> at Coney Island! See our Website at [Appalachianfestival.org](http://Appalachianfestival.org).

## Artie's Big Appalachian Festival Jam

Up Close and Personal Stage

Saturday, May 12th, 2018 from 11 am to 7 pm

Featuring:

Steve Bonafel

Shawn Brock

Brandt Smith

Gil Benson

Missy Werner

Suzanna Barnes

Bubba Griffith

And more...

Brad Meinerding

Ed Cunningham

Shane Gosney

Will Kimble

Jeff Roberts

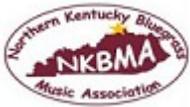
Chris Hill

Artie Werner

Bring your acoustic instrument and play a couple of songs with us!

Join us for our second year, which promises to be even more fun than the first!





Spring  
Edition



May  
2018



**May 26-June 2**  
80 Savory-Summer Rd.  
Williamsburg, KY

Info:

[www.sallygapbgfestival.com](http://www.sallygapbgfestival.com)

## The Festival of the Bluegrass - June 7-10

Kentucky Horse Park

Campground - exit 120, I75

National and Regional Favorites

A special Music Camp June 5-7  
for kids 8-18

Camping and Jamming

For info:

[www.festivalofthebluegrass.com](http://www.festivalofthebluegrass.com)



Roy and AnnaMarie Cornett - Festival Directors

## 18<sup>th</sup> Annual RUDY FEST

June 19-23

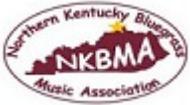
Hosted at Poppy Mountain  
Morehead, KY.

Five full days of bluegrass music are scheduled for the week, including a Lonesome River Band reunion on Friday night. This will be the first stage appearance in at least ten years by the mid-to-late '90s version of the band featuring Sammy Shelor,



Ronnie Bowman, Don Rigsby and Kenny Smith. Visit their website for more info and the complete lineup:

[www.rudymfest.com](http://www.rudymfest.com)



Spring  
Edition



May  
2018



**IBMA Museum  
ROMP  
FESTIVAL  
June 27-30  
Owensboro, KY  
Waterfront Park**  
Great Music all weekend, good food and lot's of fun. Check out the IBMA Museum while you are there!

International Bluegrass Music Museum  
presents  
**15<sup>th</sup>**  
**ROMP**  
JUNE 27-30, 2018  
OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY

**WEDNESDAY**  
ROBBIE FULKS  
HANK, PATTIE & The Current

**FRIDAY**  
RHIANNON GIDDENS  
THE TRAVELIN' MCGOURYS  
JEFF AUSTIN BAND  
WE BANJO 3  
*Russell Moore & IIR D TYME OUT*  
FIRESIDE COLLECTIVE  
THE PO' RAMBLIN' BOYS

**THURSDAY**  
RICKY SKAGGS & Kentucky Thunder  
LEFTOVER SALMON  
DOYLE LAWSON & Quicksilver  
PHOEBE HUNT & The Gatherers  
SHERIFF SCOTT & The Deputies  
FIRESIDE COLLECTIVE  
PERT NEAR SANDSTONE

**SATURDAY**  
ALISON KRAUSS  
SAM BUSH  
PARKER MILLSAP  
BILLY STRINGS  
MICHAEL DAVES featuring TONY TRISOCHKA  
MILE TWELVE  
LOVE CANON  
THE BAREFOOT MOVEMENT  
KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS ALLSTARS

[rompfest.com](http://rompfest.com)

## Sun Valley Music Festival July 13-14

Open Jam Friday Night!!  
Antique Tractors on display  
Saturday.

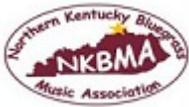
Family Friendly Fun!  
Food, Drink, Camping  
Come out and support our  
Member Bands and Regional  
Favorites

**SUN VALLEY**  
MUSIC FESTIVAL  
**BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL**

**Fri -Sat July 13-14, 2018**  
**AJ Jolly Park, Campbell Co, KY**

*Some of the best Regional Bluegrass groups including Tweed & Marty, Cull Hollow, Part Time Gentlemen, Wilson & Oldfield, The Price Sisters and more. OPEN JAM Friday night. Antique Tractor display on Saturday. Food, Drink, Camping and Kids Activities*

**info: call Jeff (859)750-0505**



Spring  
Edition



May  
2018



## Aug 29-Sept 2 Pike County Fairgrounds Piketon, OH

An amazing festival start to finish! Sam Karr and his staff go above and beyond to make this one of the best festivals of the summer. The line up is first rate; the camping and venues are clean and well maintained; jams are friendly; and the staff is accommodating and efficient!

For this year's line up and info:

[www.samjambbluegrass.com](http://www.samjambbluegrass.com)

### Additional Festival Favorites:

#### Kentucky:

July 12-14 **28<sup>th</sup> Annual Shriners Bluegrass Festival**, Olive Hill, KY For info go to [URL: http://bluegrassfestivalguide.com/olive-hill](http://bluegrassfestivalguide.com/olive-hill)

Sept 13-15 **Jerusalem Ridge Bluegrass Festival**, Monroe Homeplace, Rosine, KY [URL: https://www.jerusalemridgefestival.com](https://www.jerusalemridgefestival.com)

Sept 20-22 **19<sup>th</sup> Annual Vine Grove Bluegrass Festival**, Vine Grove, KY [URL: https://vinegrovebluegrass.com](https://vinegrovebluegrass.com)

#### Indiana:

May 30-June 2 **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Bean Blossom John Hartford Memorial Festival**, Bill Monroe Music Park and Campground For info go to [URL: http://www.johnhartfordmemfest.com](http://www.johnhartfordmemfest.com)

June 8-10 **Wakarusa Bluegrass Festival**, Wakarusa, IN. For more info go to [URL: www.wakarusabluegrass.com](http://www.wakarusabluegrass.com)

June 9-16 **52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bill Monroe Bean Blossom Bluegrass Festival**, Bill Monroe Music

Park and Campground. 8 big days, over 50 bands For info: [URL: http://www.beanblossom.us](http://www.beanblossom.us)

July 5-7 **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Bean Blossom Southern Gospel Jubilee**, Bill Monroe Music Park and Campground For info go to [URL: http://www.billmonroemusicpark.com](http://www.billmonroemusicpark.com)

Sept 19-22 **Bill Monroe Hall of Fame Uncle Pen Days Festival**, Bill Monroe Music Park and Campground For info go to [URL: http://www.billmonroemusicpark.com](http://www.billmonroemusicpark.com)

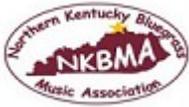
#### Ohio:

June 6-9 **Bluegrass in the Hills**, Mickey's Mountain, Hopedale, OH For more info go to [URL: http://bluegrassfestivalguide/hopedalejune.htm](http://bluegrassfestivalguide/hopedalejune.htm)

#### New York:

July 19-22 **Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival**, Oak Hill, NY. 4500 campsites. For info go to: [URL: https://greyfoxbbluegrass.com](https://greyfoxbbluegrass.com)

Aug 24-26 **Summer Hoot Music Festival**, Ashokan Center, Olivebridge, NY. For info go to: [URL: http://hoot.love](http://hoot.love)



Spring  
Edition



May  
2018



## Jam Etiquette - Unwritten Rules *by Jim Profitt*

**If** you're an enthusiastic musician and you like playing with other musicians, you've probably played in jam sessions or at least have visited one. Playing in a jam session can be a great way to meet fellow musicians, pick up playing tips, learn to play in a group, play different kinds of music and have tons of fun! Maybe meet your future band members or future spouse?!

There are a few things to know when you start out going to jam sessions which may include playing on stage. Although most jams look quite informal, there are a few unwritten rules, a kind of jam etiquette to follow that guarantee:

- a) things go smoothly;
- b) every player gets to shine;
- c) audience is entertained;
- d) the music becomes something greater than the sum of its musicians and their egos;
- e) due respect is given, no one is insulted/offended;
- f) everyone has fun, walks out with a good feeling

So what are these unwritten rules? What do you need to know before visiting and playing in the jam?

### **The Level of the Jam**

When you walk into a session you are unfamiliar with, check it out for a while. Every jam has its own level at which the majority of the players function. There may be amateur sessions in a corner or adjacent room where any level and instrument can go in addition to the seasoned players entertaining the audience. Find your comfort level and jump in. If the jam's level seems far below your own abilities, jump in and mentor. But don't steal the show, show off, or insult the others. Make everyone feel comfortable and welcome.

### **The State You are In**

If you go 'onstage', you'll be visible and audible to most of the audience and the musicians. If you're feeling slightly too drunk, depressed, stoned, or otherwise below par to make music, **Don't!** Making a fool of yourself can hurt your (social and/or professional) reputation.

### **The Session Leader**

Most sessions have a leader. Often it's one of the musicians that started the night with a little concert. If you can't determine who it is, ask around. When you've

spotted the session leader and he/she is OFF STAGE, ask if you can join in for the jam. Sometimes you will be asked which instrument you play and if you know what is expected. Don't feel intimidated by that. It's just their responsibility to the venue owner/other musicians to avoid unpleasant or embarrassing situations. The session leader will probably tell you when to go 'onstage' or how long you'll have to wait.

### **When to Go On Stage**

The right moment to go onstage varies from session to session. On some sessions people jump on and off stage in the middle of songs, while in more high-profile jams this would be considered a deadly sin. You'll see this soon enough. If you need to use an amp/cable/fx provided, ask the player currently using the equipment if they're finished before requesting use of the equipment. **NEVER tell someone to move or get out of the way.**

### **The Tune**

Usually, deciding the next tune to play is done democratically. Someone calls a song and the others may or may not know how to play it. Ideally, the jam players settle on a tune that everyone knows. Depending on your own experience (and the size of your ears/eyes), you may decide to play along on a tune you don't know. There is nothing wrong with asking the others about the chords or progressions. If you find it too difficult, drop out.

### **Tune Your Instrument**

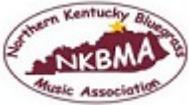
Really? Seriously! Do it before you attempt the first tune. Make sure you have a tuner and USE It!

### **Volume**

Make sure that whatever you play is in balance with the rest of the group. Learn to support the effort and shine only when taking the lead. Knowing when NOT to play is often the most important part. In an acoustic bluegrass session make sure you're not playing so loud as to drown out the banjo player! ( Is that possible?)

### **Solo Volume and Length**

If it is your turn to solo or 'take the break', step up to the mic. It is okay to be loud. But one of the most annoying mistakes made by musicians in jam sessions



Spring  
Edition



May  
2018



## Jam Etiquette - Unwritten Rules *continued*

is to take too long of a solo. If your solo doesn't really fly, end it. There will be another tune. There will be another session. You'll be respected by the other musicians for staying modest in your role on stage (musicianship!). However, if the solo is coming directly from your cosmic soul or the center of the earth.... In that special case, KEEP PLAYING until everyone starts playing softer and gets antsy.

### Listen

Listen to what the other musicians are playing/singing at all times. This allows for REAL MUSIC to happen.

### Communication and Cues

When jamming, constantly look at other players, their eyes and their body language. There is so much, musically that you can make happen this way. Breaks, modulations (sometimes yelled at the end of a section), solos, vamps, and a sense of togetherness are only possible when the players make eye contact regularly.

### Comping

Most of the time, on the guitar, banjo, fiddle or mandolin, you're either playing a melody, accompanying chords, fills or a solo. BUT, if there is another chord instrument playing, it's cool to just lay out for awhile and let them do the comping. KNOW WHEN NOT TO PLAY! Too many guitar, banjo, mandolin, and fiddlers just play the melody the whole time, without evaluating whether or not they should be playing at all during various sections of the song!

### Singers/Vocalists

If a singer joins in, this generally pulls in the attention of the audience. Take shorter breaks and let the singer shine! Don't play too loud; singers need to hear their own voice in order to sing in tune. A good singer will also give the band subtle cues or signs through his/her body language.

### Your Playing: No Worries

It's easy to focus too much on your own playing during and after you're done jamming. But don't worry! A jam session is also a place to make mistakes, mess up the chords or the form, play with a not-so-good guitar sound, and the like. It happens to everyone and it's no big deal! The main reasons for playing in jam sessions should be:

- You play to have FUN, so relax and don't expect

too much from yourself

- You play to GAIN EXPERIENCE, negative or positive
- You play to learn from other players, both songs and techniques

After playing 10-20 jam sessions you will have learned more about music, communication and yourself than you could have learned by playing 20 normal gigs with your own band, or practicing for a whole year at home!

### Respect Your Fellow Musician

Most of the etiquette on jam sessions comes down to having a certain amount of respect for the abilities, but more importantly, the FEELINGS of the other people involved in the session. Keep in mind that they might feel just as happy/unhappy, scared/hyped/out-of-place or whatever as you do. If you are a more seasoned player don't act bossy or arrogant. Be patient. It is your duty to mentor, share your experience and knowledge in a kind, sensitive way. If you run into a bossy or arrogant jammer who doesn't know you, thinks you are a newbie, and starts giving commands, while you have already played in more than a few sessions (you've 'paid your dues'), stay polite and let them live, this time...hahahahahaha!

### Audience

Realize that the jam session serves not only the musicians playing, but also those listening, the audience (musician or non-musician). This means you should make eye contact with the audience acknowledging their presence. And when you're having fun, show everyone that you are! Smile! Do a little dance, or whatever. Entertain! It's nice if there is something entertaining/funny/intriguing going on onstage. Live music is part music, part visual performance and entertainment. At least from an audience point of view.

### Summary

Jam sessions are a perfect opportunity to grow as a musician, have fun, and be entertained. Seasoned players should always be open to beginners and those wanting to learn the great music called bluegrass. It's a great big family so get your instrument out no matter what level of proficiency you are. Don't be shy. Come to a local jam. Become a member of that great community of bluegrass.

[Some material taken from guitarhow.com  
© Copyright 2010-2011 Guitarhow.com]



Spring  
Edition



May  
2018



**NEW GENE THOMPSON JAM**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the Month**  
**N. KY. First Church of God**  
**450 Graves Ave., Erlanger KY**  
**6-9pm \$2 Donation**

The Hebron Jam has moved! After 35 years of jamming and audiences enjoying the sounds of bluegrass music filling both floors of the Masonic Lodge on Hart Dr in Hebron, KY it was time to move on. Visit our photo galleries at [www.nkbma.com](http://www.nkbma.com) for memories created over the past 3 decades by members, bluegrass fans, the social atmosphere, and past fun times. Are you in some of those photos of the past?

Beginning with the first Friday of April, the Gene Thompson Jam is now being held at the First Church of God in Erlanger, Kentucky.

Inaugural night was a lot of fun as members and jammers gathered in the lower hall of the church to enjoy the gracious hospitality provided



by ladies of the church who served snacks and beverages from the kitchen. Jim Profitt ran the excellent sound system, played some bass and guitar while musicians played on the ample stage area of the hall to a nice crowd of music lovers.

A separate area was provided for 'the not ready for prime time' players to practice and share techniques on mando, fiddle, banjo and guitar. Come out and enjoy this new jamming venue.

Thank You Jim and the First Church of God.





**SELLERS WANTED**

Home buyers are looking to buy, choices are few  
Sellers have a huge advantage. Have you considered selling to move up or downsize?

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**If so, give us a call today.**

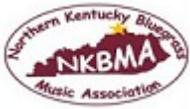
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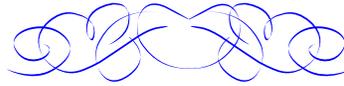
Spring  
Edition



May  
2018



## JAMS



### **NKBMA Gospel Jam**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Friday** of each month

N. Kentucky First Church of God  
450 Graves Ave., Erlanger KY

Starts at 6:00pm; \$2 door donation  
snacks and refreshments available

Come and play or listen. Info Contact:  
Gene Thompson (859)689-7431



### **Russell Turner Bluegrass Jams**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Friday** of each month

5<sup>th</sup> and Park St, Newport, KY  
6pm to 10pm year 'round

With Pot Luck and \$6 donation

Contact Russell Turner at:  
[rturn02@zoomtown.com](mailto:rturn02@zoomtown.com)

### **Old Time Fiddlers Jam**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday** of each month 1 - 4:30pm

Whitewater Community Center  
6125 Dry Fork Rd, Cleves, OH

All Acoustic, bring instruments or  
listen and enjoy. Refreshments available.

[roseballard3@aol.com](mailto:roseballard3@aol.com)

### **NKBMA Monthly Bluegrass Jam**

**4<sup>th</sup> Friday** of each month Main Stage  
Open Mic Fun! Backroom Jammin'  
6pm to 9pm Willis Music on Mall Rd,  
Florence, KY Come and play or listen.

\$2 donation at the door

Contact Rick Fuchs (859)525-6050



### **Camp Springs Bluegrass Jam**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday** of each month 3:30-6:30 pm

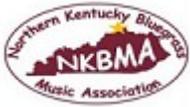
Camp Springs Tavern

7009 Stonehouse Rd, Melbourne, KY

All acoustic, bring instrument or just  
come out to listen. Details at:

[www.campspringstavern.com](http://www.campspringstavern.com)





Spring  
Edition



May  
2018



**MONDAY NIGHT BLUEGRASS JAM**  
STARTS AT 8 PM

**MOLLY MALONE'S**



**Irish Pub & Restaurant**  
**Covington, Kentucky**

[www.mollymalonesirishpub.com](http://www.mollymalonesirishpub.com)

JOIN IN OR LISTEN TO SOME OF THE AREA'S FINEST IN  
FRONT OF OUR FIRST FLOOR FIREPLACE. FULL MENU  
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112 E. 4th Street, Covington, KY 41011

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**Tom Bushelman**

KY PLS #3722

4844 Burlington Pike  
Burlington, KY 41005  
Tel: 859-689-SRVY (7789)  
Fax: 859-689-0774  
Cell: 859-743-2424

Email:

[pls@commonwealthsurveying.com](mailto:pls@commonwealthsurveying.com)

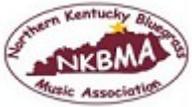


Located across from the Florence Mall and  
Next to H. H. Gregg on Mall Road, our  
Florence Superstore has it all.

Our staff bring years of service and  
experience to meet your every Musical  
need. 10% discount on accessory items to  
NKBMA members

Our Florence location features a 24 track  
Digital recording studio and performance  
Center (seats 200) in addition to the  
Kate Young Music Makers studios  
and lesson center

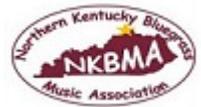
**7567 Mall Road, Florence, KY 41042**  
**859-525-6050**



Spring  
Edition



May  
2018



## Updated NKBMA website now Apple Compatible

Go to [www.nkbma.com](http://www.nkbma.com) for all the latest news, special events, concert schedules and jams.

### Plus our own Facebook Page



Find us on  
**Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/nkbma](http://www.facebook.com/nkbma)

*Visit the page whether you have a Facebook account or not and see photos from past events and the **latest event schedules***

***Want to be part of our Event Reminder Network? Send your current email address to [Jerry@NKBMA.com](mailto:Jerry@NKBMA.com)***

# Renewal time is here !

**If you haven't already, please send in your annual membership dues to the NKBMA , remain a member in good standing and help keep Bluegrass music alive in the area. Member bands are listed on our website with links to their websites and member band event schedules if provided are added to our website/Facebook calendars. Members are also VIP customers at Willis and receive 10% on all accessory purchases and other discounts on equipment.**

**Send payment (\$12 Single, \$15 Couple, \$25 Band) address and your current email address to:**

**Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association  
P.O. Box 133  
Hebron, Kentucky 41048**

**Join the NKBMA team for 2018, become a Board Member or Volunteer to help us support Bluegrass Music in the Northern Kentucky Area. Enrollment forms available at**

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